FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Sprayers

Producers of alfalfa should be on the lookout for several insects that are becoming increasingly important. One of the worst is the alfalfa weevil which was first discovered in Virginia in 1952, and since that time has spread over eight states and 64 counties of Virginia, Appomattox County being one of them. This insect does extensive damage and would probably begin his work about the middle of April. The time of damage will depend on weather conditions.

The control is by spray and would probably cost from seventy-five cents to one dollar per acre for material.

In order to apply this spray material, many farmers will find it necessary to purchase spray equipment. Experimental results have shown that the jet type spray which is a 2-nozzle arrangement, and throws the spray approximately 40 feet in an arc, will not do a satisfactory job. The type equipment growers will want to purchase is the boom type sprayer which covers 17 to 21 feet. This is a better investment in that it applies a more uniform spray under most conditions and forces the material down into the leaves. This type spray is often referred to as a low pressure, low-gallonage sprayer.

In addition to using this type sprayer to control insects in pasture and alfalfa, it may be used to control weeds in corn.

The boom type sprayer has several disadvantages in that it costs more and the booms must be folded to allow it to pass through farm gates. The jet type sprayer is less expensive and can be moved from one field to another with little trouble.

When using a sprayer which is a precision built machine, emulsifiable concentrates should be used rather than wettable powders for the carrier in wettable powders is ground rock and would have an abrasive affect on the precision instrument.

Control Alfalfa Insects

The amount of alfalfa produced this year may well depend on the effectiveness of spray materials used by growers.

To control the alfalfa weevil, use 1-4 pound emulsifiable heptachlor per acre. This material is usually sold in gallon containers at the rate of 2 pounds of heptachlor per gallon. Therefore, to get the correct doseage, use 1 pint in 20 gallons of water with a pressure of 40 pounds. One properly timed spray is usually sufficient. When most of the plant tops begin to show some feeding injury, apply the insecticide. This will usually be from the first week in April to the first week in May, depending upon weather conditions.

Aphids—Aphids on alfalfa are usually abundant in early spring where there are several weeks of cool, damp weather. To control aphids, use 1 1-2 to 2 pints of emulsifiable malathon per acre. This material may be purchased in gallon containers which carry 2 pounds per gallon.

Spittlebug — Spittlebug damage appears on both alfalfa and red clover and may be controlled with 1 pound of emulsifiable heptachoir per acre. Alfalfa should be sprayed within one week after the eggs begin to hatch. This will be when the first small masses of froth are seen in the crown of the plants. At this time, alfalfa is usually 4 to 6 inches high. Dates of spraying would be from early April to the middle of May. It is important to spray as early as possible because the foliage will not be as dense and it will be much easier for the chemical to come in contact with the insect.

Potato Leaf Hopper— The potato leaf hopper caused some considerable damage in some sections of the county last year. They usually appear somewhat later than insects mentioned above. The control for this insect is the same as for spittlebug. Spray is usually applied around June 15th.

There are several other insecticides that give excellent control for the insects mentioned above. However, at this time they have not been cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

BCIA Shows Growth

The Beef Cattle Improvement Association made strong gains throughout the state last year. This program will mean to beef cattle producers what DHIA means to dairymen. Several Appomattox producers have indicated interest in this performance testing and others in the years to come, will consider enrolling their herds.

The program is based on a few simple facts: (1) Individual animals differ in their ability to grow rapidly, mature early, convert feed to meat, and to develop desirable carcasses; (2) these characteristics are inherited; (3) research indicates that performance testing on the farms of breeders is practical; and (4) performance testing automatically provides data for progeny tests of the sires and a record of the reproductive performance of each cow in the herd.

In 1955 a total of 2,482 calves and about 300 yearling cattle were indexed in 70 herds. Each breeder taking part in the performance testing program was furnished a listing of his calves by sire groups, showing the calf number, sex, number of sire and dam, age of calf, weight, type score, average daily gain from birth until date on which was weighed, the gain adjusted for sex of calf and age of dam, and the index value. The index gives equal emphasis to growth rate and to type. An index value of 100 is considered average; that is, a calf with a grade of "good" and an average daily gain of 1.7 pounds from birth to weaning would have an index value of 100.

Each breeder was also furnished a summary of the entire Virginia BCIA program, showing the average performance of all progeny by each sire in each of the 70 herds. Herds and sires were listed by code numbers in order to keep them confidential, yet allowing each breeder to compare the performance of his herd with that of other herds.

An example of its usefulness can best be explained as follows. In a commercial herd of more than 100 cows, the cows were alloted at random into three breeding groups and mated to three different sires. All of these bulls were top commercial bulls, that is, bulls that would grade choice or low fancy. Bull No. 1 sired 30 calves that had an average index value of 116. Bull No. 2 sired 31 calves with an average index value of 108. Bull No. 3 sired 33 calves with an average index value of 102.

Comparing only bulls No. 1 and 3 (since bull No. 2 was intermediate) the breeder finds the difference in average daily gain of the calves from birth to weaning was .22 of a pound per calf. At 200 days of age this would be a difference of 44 pounds per calf, or a total of 1,320 pounds for 30 calves. At 20 cents per pound this was worth $264.

The calves by sire No. 1 also graded 1-3 of a grade higher than the calves sired by bull No. 3. This 1-3 of a grade was worth about 75 cents per 100 wt. in the Virginia feeder calf sales in 1955. Since the calves by sire No. 1 gained at the rate of 1.89 pounds per day and averaged about 62 pounds at birth, they weighed 440 pounds at 200 days of age. Therefore, the 1-3 of a grade per calf was worth $3.30, or $99 for the 30 calves. Adding the two values together gives a difference of $363 in one year's calf crop. The difference was large enough to buy a top commercial bull calf.

Home Agent's Notes

By Mrs. B. G. Anderson
Home Demonstration Agent

During March, better breakfasts will be emphasized—especially for teen-age groups.

In this jet-propelled age, all of us are plagued with speed fever. We dash from the bed and often don't take time needed for a good breakfast. Breakfast should provide 1-4 to 1-3 of the day's food. Recent research has proved that if we skip breakfast and eat enough at lunch and dinner to equal the same number of calories it doesn't give the results.

Your body, like an engine, needs fuel to operate, but an engine will stop using fuel when it is not running, while the human uses energy both awake and asleep. It is important to realize that the body burns fuel during sleeping hours just as an engine burns fuel when it idles. The amount of fuel burned depends upon the length of time and the speed with which the engine operates. If you do heavy work, your body needs more food.

Breakfast is seldom an elaborate meal. A simple breakfast is quick and easy to prepare and serve. The minutes saved in preparation can, with benefit, be spent in more leisurely eating. It is important that enough time be allowed for eating.

The kinds of foods needed are the same for everyone, but the quantity varies with your age, size, and your activities. Only if you eat a good breakfast can your mental and physical fitness remain at highest levels during the morning, which, for most people, are the most productive hours of the day.

Breakfasts for health and pep should contain:

fruit or fruit juice
cereal with milk
meat or eggs
bread - milk (coffee for adults)

Fruit

We should have one serving of citrus fruit or tomatoes every day for Vitamin C. This vitamin is not stored to any extent in the body and must be eaten daily. Tissues throughout the body can't be kept in good condition without Vitamin C, for gums are tender and bleed easily, and joints swell and hurt, if we lack Vitamin C.

Fruit also acts as a brush in the body, so it prevents constipation. Other good sources of Vitamin C are watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries. All are good for breakfast, in season.

Cereal and milk make a wonderful team, and each makes an important contribution to health. Recent surveys show many people do not get enough milk. Children require 1 quart and adults one pint up to age 65, then they should have a quart, as more is needed to repair tissues.

Milk is important to the health of the body because:

1. It furnishes minerals to build bones and teeth.
2. It furnishes vitamins, which promote growth and prevent infections.
3. It furnishes energy in the form of fat and carbohydrates.
4. It furnishes protein, which builds tissue.
5. It is easily and completely digested, and inexpensive, considering its food value.

Breakfast Cocoa

Add 1 or 2 tablespoons of cocoa syrup for each cup of milk. To make a quantity of this syrup, cook 1 cup cocoa, 2 cups sugar, 2 tablespoons corn syrup, and 2 cups water for 10 minutes or until clear and slightly thick. Store in jars in refrigerator.

Cereals

Wholegrain or enriched cereal and bread are important to the body because:

1. It furnishes energy.
2. It furnishes minerals and vitamins, which promote growth and protect the body against disease.
3. It furnishes bulk, which aids in eliminating waste from the body and prevents constipation.
4. It furnishes muscle - building macerial (protein).
5. It is inexpensive, easy to prepare and digest.

Eggs for Breakfast

Eggs are one of the most valuable body-building foods and are easily digested if properly prepared. They should be included in each day's menu when possible.

Eggs are important to the health of the body because they provide:

1. Protein for growth and repair of tissues.
2. Minerals, especially build good blood.
3. Vitamins, that protec from disease and promot
4. Energy for growth, pep.

Eggs need special car them in a cool place, a odors. If possible, keep t ed. It is safer to break into a saucer and exam fore adding it to the di being prepared. Cook egg temperature. High t makes them tough and le

To scramble eggs, add spoon cream or milk to beat until fulffy, cook amount of fat over mode low fire, or top of dou Bacon and ham bits may for flavor. Try 2 tablespo ped parsley and chives to

Try broiling bacon or the oven. Try a rack in pan when doing small qu will cook while oven hea cuits.

Time Savers for Better

1. Set the breakfast ta you finish the dinner d place the dishes and silv trap to carry to the tabl
2. Keep a variety of c on hand for quick, nutriti fasts.
3. Plan a "Breakfast St canned fruits, juices, cere jam, jelly, canned milk, other foods which are breakfast, to save time.
4. Prepare fruits the d If it's baked apples, prep when baking other foods fruits do not lose food covered and stored in the tor.
5. Cereals, if long-cook ty, may be cooked the ni and heated in double boi
6. Make the breakfast tractive by using colorful mats and a simple center

THIEVING DOG

Ventura, Calif.- F. J. is seeking the owners o articles which his dog ha home from time to time, pots, rugs, various hous ticles and colthing—even slippers. Woodward would get them back into the their rightful owners.

Best Wishes
TO
Robinson Funeral Home
FORMAL OPENING MARCH 3 & 4
Poe Hardware Co.
PHONE 2612 APPOMATTOX

A FINE IMPROVEMENT FOR APPOMATTO
Congratulations
TO
ROBINSON FUNERAL HOM
FORMAL OPENING MARCH 3 & 4
Haley's Cash Grocer
W. G. HALEY

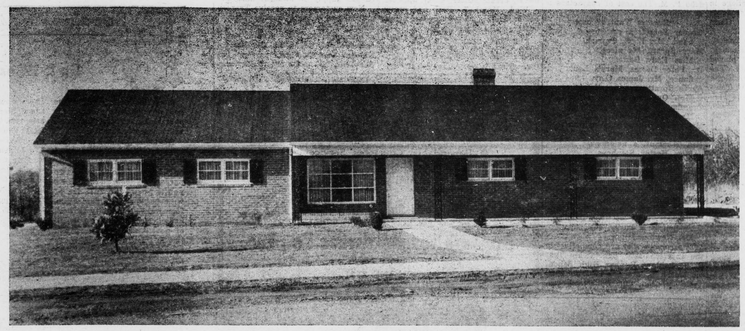
Congratulations
On the Opening of
ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME
Saturday and Sunday
March 3 and 4
Webb'S Esso Service & Recapping
ROUTE 460 APPOMATTOX

Our Most Sincere
Congratulations
to
Robinson Funeral Home
On your Formal Opening
The Bank of Appomattox

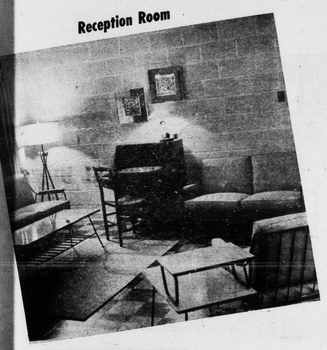
Congratulations
and best wishes to
Robinson
Funeral Home
LeGrand's Esso Service Statio

You Are Invited To Open House

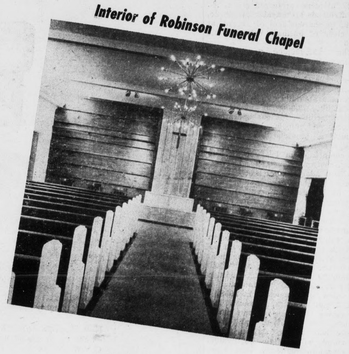
ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME



Reception Room



Interior of Robinson Funeral Chapel



Saturday & Sunday

Saturday, March 3
10 A. M. to 9 P. M.

Sunday, March 4
2 P. M. to 10 P. M.

Richard D. Robinson

Clifford E. Harvey

The Services of a Lady Attendant are available at all times.

For the comfort and convenience of those we serve we have erected one of the most unique buildings that planning can devise for funeral service. Included is the use of private family area, and electric Hammond organ.

We have always tried to serve sympathetically and efficiently. We are grateful for our many friends made through the years. Our policy is still to render the same understanding service to all our people. We are dedicated to continue our services within the budget of every family.

To all those who cooperated so wholeheartly in fulfilling our plans and wishes in enabling us to achieve the first funeral home, in Appomattox County, we extend our sincere thanks and good wishes. May all who shared in this work enjoy continued and well deserved success.

The entire building will be open to visitors

Robinson Funeral Home
Appomattox, Virginia
DIAL 3331